



**Bureau of Health
Division of Community Health
Maine Injury Prevention Program (MIPP)**

1-800-698-3624

or

(207) 287-5356

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What Does the MIPP Offer?

Activities:

- > Provide education, information, resource materials and technical assistance on a variety of child injury prevention topics.
- > Oversee 60 statewide safety seat loan programs which lend infant and toddler safety seats to families who cannot afford to purchase one. Training and education is provided on the correct installation and use to loan program managers.
- > Administer grants to the Maine Poison Center, Maine Coalition for Safe Kids, Safe Communities grantees and other agencies working to prevent injury.
- > Training and education to increase the knowledge and skills of individuals and agencies working with children, families and caregivers to prevent injuries.
- > Conduct training and education to increase the knowledge and skills of those individuals and agencies working with children, families and caregivers to prevent injury.
- > Conduct surveillance of injury morbidity and mortality to monitor the incidence of injuries among Maine children.

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FACT SHEET

YOUNG DRIVERS

Is there a problem here in Maine?

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death of teenagers and young drivers ages 15 to 24.
- In Maine, on the average, nearly one person between the ages of 15-24 is killed each week in a motor vehicle crash. From 1994 to 1998, an average of one person between the ages of 15-24 was killed every 11 days in Maine. No other age group in the nation, or in Maine, experiences the rate of motor vehicle deaths or injuries as this age group. Maine ranks second in New England among other states for motor vehicle fatality rate in this age group.
- On the average, nearly 60 young people between the ages of 15-24 years are injured each week in Maine, and one youth a day is admitted to a hospital due to injuries from a motor vehicle crash.

How does this affect us?

- In 1994, in Maine, the cost of motor vehicle crashes was \$1.2 billion, almost the amount of the entire General Fund Budget. This cost was equivalent to \$8,380 per person.
- Nationally in 1994, the cost of motor vehicle crashes was \$120 billion or approximately \$500 per person.
- Over the next 15 years (2012), the teenage population is expected to grow 25% nationwide, and fatalities and injuries among young drivers is expected to increase at the same rate.

Who is at Risk?

- Teenagers and young drivers between the ages of 15-24.
- Teenagers are 3-4 times more likely to be involved in a crash than the remaining driving population at large.
- 65% of all teenagers killed in a motor vehicle crash were occupants of a vehicle operated by a teenage driver.
- In 1995, for young people ages 15 to 24, 71.5% of the total number of crashes in Maine involved males while 28.5% involved female.

What is the typical crash?

- Most vehicle crashes involving young persons between 15-20 years, occur on the weekends and at night.
- A disproportionate share of crashes occur on rural roads.
- 76% of teenage crashes (15-20 year old) are the result of driver behavior and driver error.
- Of the total number of fatal crashes in 1995, 24% involved male drivers who had been drinking, while 10% involved female drivers.

What can we do?

- Parents should discuss and set clear rules and consequences for driving and riding in a car.
- Parents should continue to monitor and supervise the new driver.
- Support legislative and policy recommendations made by the Secretary of State's Office for passage of components of a model graduated licensing program. For more information, call 1-800-698-3624.